

**CEMETERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
1400 EAST WASHINGTON AVENUE, MADISON
FEBRUARY 5, 2002**

PRESENT: Craig Gramke, Glen Porter, III, Jon Ruatti, David Stucki, Tim Tysver, and Jim Ullom

EXCUSED: Marie Drescher, David Weiss and Kelly Coleman

STAFF PRESENT: Clete Hansen, Jacquelynn Rothstein, Greg Raube, Gene Kleinert and Mark Mackenzie; Candace Bloedow for a portion of the meeting.

GUESTS: None.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m. by Clete Hansen, Division Administrator.

AGENDA

The agenda were informally approved.

MINUTES (11/13/01)

MOTION: Tim Tysver moved, seconded by Jon Ruatti, to approve the minutes, with an amendment to remove the duplication of Jon Ruatti's name in the list of those who were present for the meeting. Motion unanimously carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Division Administrator's Report

- **Committee Membership Roster**

Dave Stucki stated that his e-mail address is now dstucki@tds.net. Mr. Stucki also stated that his fax number is now the same as his telephone number.

Jim Ullom stated that his e-mail address is fredfoxx@chartermi.net.

- **Meeting Dates**

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 7, 2002.

- **To-Do List**

Noted

DISCUSSION ISSUES

Report on Evergreen Cemetery

Candace Bloedow said that Judge David Hansher thanked the Department of Justice and the Department of Regulation and Licensing for their work on this case. Ms. Bloedow said that the Milwaukee Public Library will provide access to Evergreen Cemetery's grave location documents by February 15, 2002. The library will also place these documents on the Web. Ms. Bloedow said that the County Historical Society will also have these documents available on a CD-Rom. So will the State Historical Society. She said that the new owner, Craig Spoerl, also has copies of these documents.

The Committee noted the copy of the press release, prepared by the Department of Justice, relating to the resolution of this matter.

Status of Proposed Revision of Cemetery Laws

Glenn Porter reviewed a bill that would exempt non-pecuniary cemeteries from paying sales taxes on their purchases. Porter said that the Wisconsin/Badger State Cemetery Association voted to support this bill. The Committee took no action on it.

Glenn Porter reviewed SB 233, prohibiting construction of a new highway through a veterans cemetery. Porter said that the Wisconsin/Badger State Cemetery Association took no position on this bill. The Committee did not take any action on this bill.

The Committee reviewed SB 399, relating to the 48-hour wait before cremating a corpse. They surmised that law enforcement agencies would oppose the change. Glenn Porter stated that the Wisconsin/Badger State Cemetery Association has taken no position on the bill.

MOTION: Jon Ruatti moved, seconded by Dave Stucki, to recommend that the Department not support SB 399. Motion unanimously carried.

Proposed Regulation of Crematories

The Committee reviewed and discussed a summary of a meeting that Secretary Oscar Herrera convened with cemetery officials and funeral directors. The Committee reviewed suggestions that the Funeral Directors Examining Board made to the drafter of the LRB draft. The Committee also reviewed and discussed a memo sent to Clete Hansen by Peggy Peterson, a staff person in the Department of Health and Family Services, relating to copies of death certificates and direct cremations without the services of a funeral director.

MOTION: Jon Ruatti moved, seconded by David Stucki, to support the agreement reached by the parties during the meeting with Secretary Oscar Herrera. Motion carried unanimously.

Burials During Each Season

Committee members reviewed several newspaper articles about the new law. The Committee meeting packet contained a copy of the notice that was sent to registered cemeteries and a copy of the Department's press release of January 18, 2002. The Committee discussed issues relating to the

word “practicable” and “reasonable fees.” The Committee also reviewed a Staff Memorandum, prepared by the Legislative Council for Senator Rodney Moen, entitled “Challenge to Reasonableness of Winter Burial Fees.”

Cemetery Regulation

The Committee discussed LRB-4247/1, relating to the regulation of cemeteries. Committee members concluded that they do not have enough information. Therefore, the Committee did not take a position on the bill.

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION

Nothing

NEW BUSINESS

No new business to report.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Jon Ruatti moved, seconded by Craig Gramke, to adjourn the meeting.
Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was informally adjourned at 11:45 p.m.